

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY TO AVOID ACCESS CONTROL PROBLEMS

No discussion of power supplies would be complete without taking a look at the bigger picture of access control power first. Why? Because, all power is not created equal, especially when designing and installing electrified access control (EAC) hardware and systems in new or retrofit applications.

Unlike camera system power requirements, access control systems draw more current for locking hardware and during access control-related events. As the industry transitions from solenoid-based electric locking devices to motorized devices, demand for specific power supply requirements has also increased.

This whitepaper has been designed for locksmiths, installers, dealers and integrators to understand why power supply requirements are different for EAC hardware vs other devices or fire and life safety systems, and that one size does not fit all.

Page 2

Power Supply Types

- Switching Power Supplies
- Linear Power Supplies
- Hybrid Power Supplies

Pages 3-6

How to Avoid Problems

- EAC Power Issues
- Plan Now to Avoid Problems Later
- Low Voltage Power

Page 4

- Current Load
- Voltage Drop
- Centralized Power

Page 5

- Distributed Power
- Dual Voltage Output
- What Else to Look For In a Power Supply

Page 7

Cross Reference Guide

Access Control Power Supplies

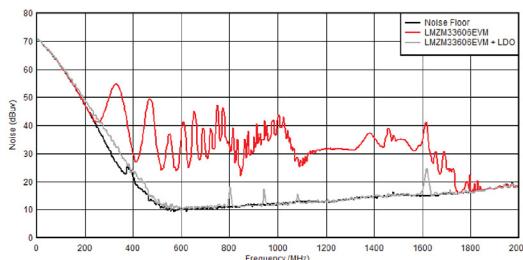
Power Supply Types

Switching Power Supplies

Switching Power Supplies are typically designed for use with resistive or capacitive loads such as low voltage lamps, alarm panels, cameras and signaling devices. They are lighter in weight, efficient (less heat generated) and are cheaper to manufacture. The low price of switching power supplies often encourages their misapplication.

Switching power supplies are not recommended for use with access controls and electric locks for several reasons. Typical switching power supplies have trouble handling the inductive loads produced by locking devices with coils or solenoids due to the limited current reserve available to handle periods of high inrush. Excessive current draw (even for a short period of time) will briefly stop a switching supply from operating and may even permanently damage it.

Another byproduct of the switching power supply is a high frequency noise component that appears in the DC voltage output. A properly designed supply includes a filter circuit



to reduce or eliminate this noise. Many switching power supplies do not include more effective output filtering due to cost constraints. The filter part of the supply can cost as much as the regulator circuit so a good high frequency filter is often left out. Although the noise will not harm a simple device like an electric strike, the noise may cause erratic operation of electronic equipment such as access controls, electronically controlled locks, panic bars and door controllers, causing them to malfunction and may even damage these units.

These "low cost" switching supplies often require that you supply your own power transformer and assemble these two components in your own box. The result will be a NON-UL listed power supply allowing an opportunity for local inspectors to not approve an installation.

Linear Power Supplies

Linear Power supplies have been used for years for powering resistive, capacitive and inductive loads (devices with coils or solenoids, such as electromechanical and electromagnetic locks and strikes) due to their ability to handle large inrush currents. Since most of the DC filtering is done with large filter capacitors, there is plenty of reserve power and they can provide extra current for short periods of time without malfunction or damage. The output is also free of high frequency noise found in switching power supplies making them practical for use with access controls.

However, the penalty in using a linear power supply is the heat generated by the regulator component of the supply due to its moderate efficiency. The heat generated can lead to early failure of the temperature sensitive components housed near to the supply board.

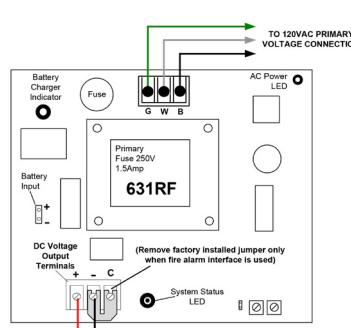
Hybrid Power Supplies

SDC manufactures Hybrid Access Control Power Supplies that are ideal for powering resistive, capacitive and inductive loads – the type of unique power loads common to access control locking devices.

Hybrid power supplies combine the efficiency (low heat generation) of a switching supply and the rugged inductive load capability of a linear power supply.



Extra filtering is added to the output stage of the SDC 600 series power supplies to provide clean noise free power for access controls and enough current reserve is available to reliably power inductive loads. Built-in inductive kickback protection enables



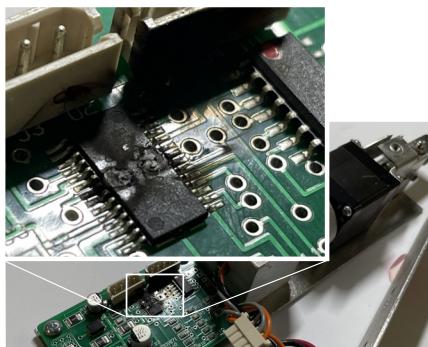
high inrush protection caused by electric lock solenoids and motors. This type of power supply is a good overall choice for powering all access control system components.

Access Control Power Supplies

How to Avoid Problems

EAC Power Issues

Based on more than 50 years of manufacturing electronic access and egress control solutions, including locking hardware and power supplies, we have quantified that at least 75 - 85% of access control operating problems and technical support calls are due to power issues,* resulting in:



- Dead Systems
- Malfunctioning Locks or intermittent operation of Accessories, Controllers
- Locking Devices that won't respond reliably

* SDC Technical Support Logs

Why? Because EAC power requirements are different from systems like CCTV for example. These issues can be eliminated by following best practices for power design and installation protocols specific to electrified access control hardware including:

- Access Control Systems require steady low-voltage DC current
- Access Control Systems generally draw higher current during access control-related events - readers, shunt and strike relays, door locking devices, gate operators, controllers and annunciators



Plan Now to Avoid Trouble Later

Before selecting a power supply, we recommend you plan now to avoid trouble later. This means you should carefully evaluate your project to avoid common installation and operating problems.

- Understand the power required and know the power available (if retrofitting)
- If retrofitting, what modifications have been done over the years affecting the capacity of the power supply?
- Power supplies wear out. If more than 10 years old, replace it
- Do all the products really work together? Take responsibility
- Code Compliance - be aware of applicable regional and national codes
- UL 294 – become familiar with this access control standard. Find out if your AHJ requires the installation to be UL 294 compliant, and get your AHJ involved in your system design
- Battery Backup Calculations – how long must the system function after power loss?
- Low Voltage license - is one required in your jurisdiction?
- Don't cheap out on recommending a quality system design
- Plan not to come back, do it right the first time
- Plan for future expansion - no one has ever needed less power for their facility's access control system. Requirements change over time



Low Voltage Power

With few exceptions, talking about Access Control Power concerns low-voltage, 12 or 24-volt DC power for most Access Control Systems. Unlike security camera/video systems typically deployed throughout a facility, Access Control locking hardware draws more current, especially during an access control event - such as the locking or unlocking of a device. Providing steady, low-voltage DC current requires a power supply to convert incoming AC voltage to DC.

Access Control Power Supplies

Calculating Current Load

- Before selecting power supplies for your access control system, you must calculate the power load (current) required for each door opening
- Use a Door Checklist like this example to fill in values and calculate the current load:
 - Locking Device (____ Amps)
 - Rex Button (____ Amps)
 - Control Panel (____ Amps)
 - In/Out Readers (____ Amps)
 - Annunciator (____ Amps)
 - Total: (____ Amps)



- Add a 30% safety margin
- Add these values for an overall system total, as well as subtotals per floor or building. This will help you to:
- Determine what size power supply is needed
- Select and locate the appropriate power supply components
- Determine wire gauge requirements based on load, cable distance and voltage drop

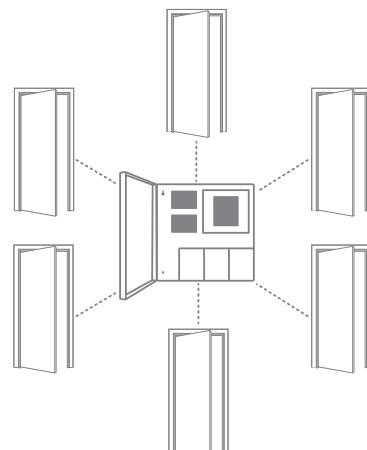
Voltage Drop

- Power supply voltage will drop over long cable distances due to wire resistance
 - Operating access control devices with inadequate or excess voltage makes them run hotter, wear out faster, operate erratically or not at all
 - Rule of thumb for access control devices is that voltage drop cannot exceed 5% of the supply voltage

- SDC has a Voltage Drop Calculator that allows you to enter the wire gauge, voltage, distance, load current (Amps) to obtain a voltage drop calculation - <https://sdcsecurity.com/Calculators.htm>

Centralized Power

Before proceeding, you'll need to consider what type of power system - Centralized or Distributed - is best for your installation as it will greatly affect your Voltage Drop calculations. If your project involves multiple doors, there are pros and cons to using one large - Centralized - power supply to meet the system requirements.



Access Control Power Supplies

The pro's and con's of door-by-door deployment are:

PROS

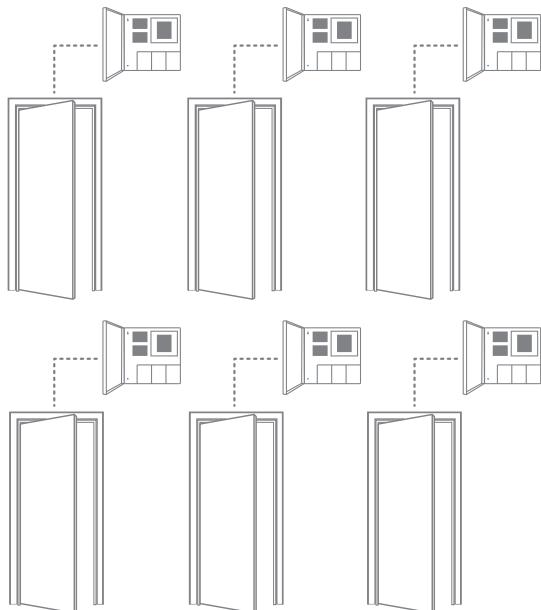
- Supplies are protected from vandalism
- Single location for fire system interface
- Easier to monitor/maintain power system
- Lower cost per door (based on cable distance, labor costs)

CONS

- Single point of system-wide failure (especially when using one large supply)
- Difficult to reconfigure for system expansion
- Longer, heavier cabling required for home runs with centralized power

Distributed Power

Distributed Power refers to using a power supply for each door.



The pro's and con's of door-by-door deployment are:

PROS

- Adequate power will be provided for each new door
- Easier to accommodate system expansion
- Shorter, lighter gauge cabling can be used

CONS

- Higher cost per door

The point can be made that it is also easier to service everything at the point of failure in a Distributed Power system.

Dual Voltage Output

Dual Voltage Output is frequently required when powering access control panels at 12VDC and door locking devices at 24VDC. Look for 12/24VDC linear power supplies with various current output capabilities and/or add-in 12VDC regulator modules to provide output for access controllers, readers, or other devices.

What Else to Look For In a Power Supply

Much of the selection criteria for a power supply depends on your specific project application. However, there are some features worth recommending:

- Field selectable 12 or 24VDC, regulated and filtered
- Auto resetting output circuit protection
- Backup battery with isolated battery charger
- Low battery disconnect
- Emergency release input (also the fire alarm input)
- Input, output and battery status LED's

The quality and reliability of electrified hardware brands in today's industry is very high. And unless it was improperly installed or damaged during installation on your project, the device is probably going to reliably operate for years to come. However, if you don't add consideration of power and the power supply, you may be headed for trouble down the road.

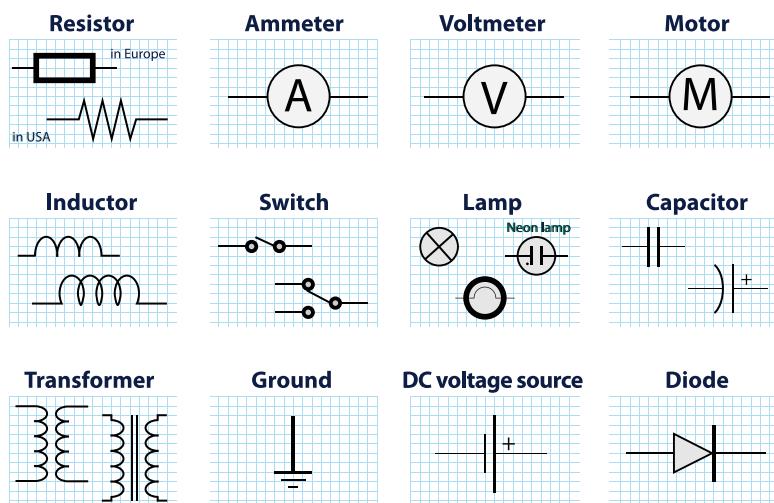
Don't forget, industry associations like ALOA (www.aloa.org), ESA (www.esaweb.org) and others, have a wealth of information, tools and training to assist you in your electrified door hardware and access control projects.

Access Control Power Supplies

The screenshot shows the homepage of the [SDC Security Door Controls](#) website. At the top, there are navigation links for WHERE TO BUY, SEARCH, and 1.800.413.8783, along with a "MADE IN THE USA" logo. Below the header, there's a main banner with the title "HYBRID POWER PIONEER" and an image of an open access control power supply unit. To the right of the unit is a circular seal that reads "DESIGNED, ENGINEERED SINCE 1972 BUILT IN AMERICA". Below the banner, there's a section titled "1 – 6 AMP ACCESS CONTROL POWER SUPPLIES" with a brief description of the product's history and capabilities. On the right side of this section, there's a small icon of a door and a window, and a red button labeled "Need Help? Have a question? CHAT NOW".

You should also visit our "Hybrid Power Pioneer" page at sdcsec.com/hybridpower for product information on our line of Hybrid Power Supplies. While there you can also download our brochure: "ACCESS CONTROL POWER GUIDE – Avoiding Problems In The Real World" for more tips and references on designing and installing electrified access control (EAC) hardware and systems.

ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT SYMBOLS



Access Control Power Supplies

Cross Reference Guide

1 – 6 Amp Power Supplies



ASSA ABLOY



Model	Description	SDC	Altronix	ASSA ABLOY	LifeSafety Power	Schlage
602RFFB4 1 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 4 Fused Outputs, Fire Interface			AL125UL, AL125ULX	AQD1-4F1, AQD1-4C1	FPO25-E5, FPO25-E1	PS902
631RF 1.5 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, Fire Interface			AL125UL, AL125ULX	AQD1	FPO25-E5, FPO25-E1	PS902
632RF 2 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, Fire Interface			AL175UL, AL175ULX	AQD2-1	FPO75-E5, FPO75-E1	PS902
632RFCR4 2 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 4 Fused Outputs, Fire Interface			AL300ULM, AL300ULACM4	AQD2-4C1, AQD2-4F1	FPO75-F8PE1, FPO75-D8E1	PS902
632RFCR4CR4 2 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 8 Fused Relay Outputs, Fire Interface			AL300ULACM8	AQD2-8C8R1, AQD2-8F8R1	FPO75-D8E1	PS902
634RFFB4 4 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 4 Fused Outputs, Fire Interface			AL400ULPD4	AQD4-4F1	FPO75-D8E1	PS904
634RFFB4FB4 4 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 8 Fused Outputs, Fire Interface			AL400ULPD8CB	AQD4-8C1	FPO75-D8PE1	PS904
634RFCR4CR4 4 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 8 Fused Relay Outputs, Fire Interface			AL400ULACM, AL400ULACMCB, AL400ULACMCFJ, AL400ULACMJ	AQD4-8C8R1, AQD4-8F8R1	FPO75-C8E1, FPO75-C8PE1, FPO75-CPE2, FPO75-C8E2	PS904
636RFFB4FB4 6 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 8 Fused Outputs, Fire Interface			AL600ULPD8CB	AQD6-8C2	FPO150-D8PE1	PS906
636RFCR4CR4 6 Amp, 12 OR 24 VDC, 8 Fused Relay Outputs, Fire Interface			AL600ULACM, AL600ULACMCB, AL600ULACMCFJ, AL600ULACMJ	AQD6-8C8R2, AQD6-8F8R2	FPO150-C8E1, FPO150-C8PE1, FPO150-C8PE2, FPO150-C8E2	PS906



602RF



631RF



632RF



634RF



636RF



the lock behind the system

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